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17. The stent of claim 14, wherein each of the coupling structures is welded to each of the strand portion ends of the pair of strand portion ends.

18. The stent of claim 14, wherein each of the coupling structures includes a passageway containing the pair of strand 5
portion ends.

19. The stent of claim 14, wherein each of the coupling structures includes a passageway having a diameter sized to receive one said strand.

20. The stent of claim 14, wherein at least one crossing 10
strand crosses over each of the coupling structures at a position radially outward from the coupling structure.

21. The stent of claim 11, wherein the strand portion ends in each pair of strand portion ends are spaced from each other.

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